GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4044
ANSWERED ON:14.12.2000
IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES
ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the plans/schemes of the Railways which are under implementation to provide facilities to senior citizens, promotion of tourism, improvement in catering and to provide safety and security to the passengers;

(b) the extent to which the Government have achieved success in the implementation of the schemes/plans; and

(c) the manner in which the Government are monitoring the implementation of these schemes/plans?

Answer

(MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS) (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is attached

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (c) to Unstarred Question No. 4044 by Shri Ashok N. Mohol to be answered in Lok Sabha on 14/12/2000 regarding implementation of Schemes

(a) to (c): Facilities like Senior Citizen's concession, provision of automatic allotment of lower berth in the train atthe time of booking by the Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS) subject to availability of the same atthat time and provision of separate counters at Computerised Passenger Reservation System (PRS)centre wherever feasible and justified have already been provided to the senior citizens.

2. Regarding promotion of tourism, Ministryof Railways are taking a number of initiatives to develop comprehensive value added tour packages for those domestic and in-bound tourists, such as − a new "Palace on Wheels" type train in association with Government of Maharashtra and comprehensive tour packages with State Governments/Tour Operators.

3. In regard to improvement in catering services, the plans/schemes under finalisation include construction of modular stalls, provision of automatic vending machines, service o f pre-cooked meals i n aluminium casseroles, introduction of eco-friendly packaging material, procurement of drinking water as per standard specifications under guidelines of Ministry of Health.

4. Railways have set up a new Corporation namely − Indian RailwayCatering & Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC),with the objective of upgrading catering services, including setting up of Food Plazas and improving railtourism by introducing comprehensive value added tour packages.

5. Regular inspections are carried out at various levels to ensure quality of service. Besides, special drives are organised from time to time. Meetings are hold at the level of senior officers to review the implementation of schemes from time to time.

6. Railways give highest priority to safety in train operations and all possible steps are taken to ensure safe journey of passengers. Safety related issues are regularly discussed at various forums and corrective steps taken as and when required for further improvement.

7. Maintenance of Law and Order in the Railways including running trains is the constitutional responsibilityof the State Governments. The Railway Administrationcoordinates with the State Governments at all levels to ensure that adequate security is provided to the passengers.